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Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session

Observer status for the Southern African Development Community in the General Assembly

Letter dated 15 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Southern African Development Community in the General Assembly".

The request is made by the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the following States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC): Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is enclosed with this request (see annex).

I further have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Augustine **Mahi** ga
Permanent Representative of the United
Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

04-31557 (E) 220404

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established on 17 August 1992 in Windhoek, Namibia, by a treaty of its establishment. The Treaty replaced a memorandum of understanding of 20 July 1981. The regional body is composed of the following Member States: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of South Africa, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe. The Treaty allows admission of new member States and the secretariat is based in Gaborone, Botswana.

The principal institutions of SADC are:

(1) The Summit of Heads of State and Government;

(2) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

(3) Council of Ministers;

(4) Integrated Committee of Ministers;

(5) Standing Committee of Officials;

(6) Secretariat;

(7) Tribunal;

(8) SADC National Committees

The framework of cooperation in advancing its main objectives is outlined in the various chapters of the SADC Treaty as follows:

- Promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development that will ensure poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of its eradication, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of southern Africa and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration
- Promote common political values, systems and other shared values which are transmitted through institutions which are democratic, legitimate and effective
- Consolidate, defend and maintain democracy, peace, security and stability
- Promote self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance and the interdependence of member States
- Achieve complementarity between national and regional strategies and programmes
- Promote and maximize productive employment and utilization of resources of the region
- Achieve sustainable utilization of natural resources and effective protection of the environment

- Strengthen and consolidate the long-standing historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the people of the region
- Combat HIV/AIDS and other deadly and communicable diseases
- Ensure that poverty eradication is addressed in all SADC activities and programmes
- Mainstream gender in the process of community-building

To date, SADC has concluded a total of 23 Protocols, 11 of which have entered into force. The Protocols form mechanisms for regulating SADC activities collectively and also form the basis upon which member States would take decisions at national levels to put into action what will have been agreed at the regional level. It is the intention of SADC to ensure that the Protocols are translated into national laws of member States by incorporation.

It is provided under the SADC Treaty that member States and SADC shall maintain good working relations and other forms of cooperation and may enter into agreements with other States, regional and international organizations whose objectives are compatible with the objectives of SADC and provisions of the SADC Treaty. The main objectives of SADC are consistent with the objectives of the United Nations as contained in its Charter.

It is hoped that the accreditation of SADC to the United Nations will enable it to be recognized as a regional economic organization for purposes of:

(a) Appropriately contributing to and enhancing the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

(b) Providing a subregional forum for political dialogue and initiatives to promote regional stability and maintain international peace and security;

(c) Implementing a regional approach to economic and social cooperation in accordance with the United Nations Charter;

(d) Relating its relevant programmes to global projects and programmes;

(e) Seeking appropriate support from the United Nations Organization and the specialized agencies;

(f) Establishing and consolidating cooperation with other regional economic, political, social and humanitarian organizations, civil society, corporate organizations and the international community as a whole in addressing global challenges to peace, development and justice.

In all its work, SADC strongly believes that it is desirable to establish and consolidate links with the United Nations and that observer status in the General Assembly would be mutually beneficial.

Consequently, pursuant to the decision taken by SADC, we hereby request that the Southern African Development Community be granted observer status in the General Assembly.